

this country and all over the world that I support them. I am patriotic. To the whole world I still like peace, I want peace, and I am opposed to the war in Iraq, but I am a great American and I am a patriot.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to be heard, Mr. Speaker.

LIBERTY WILL PREVAIL

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today is a solemn day. History awaits America tonight, and while I would never question the patriotism of anyone who would challenge the wisdom of U.S. policy exercising their first amendment rights on this floor or in this Nation, I will challenge the wisdom of those who say that we are come upon this moment because of diplomatic failure, that we have come upon this moment because of a failure on the part of the President to lead the world toward consensus.

Let us be clear, Mr. Speaker, the President did not fail. Diplomacy did not fail. The United Nations failed in abdicating its historic role, minted in the aftermath of the Second World War, to be a bulwark against tyranny in the world. The United Nations failed, but as the world awaits our leadership and that of 30 other nations in the coalition of the willing, let us be clear, Mr. Speaker. The United Nations failed, but liberty will prevail.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER HARASSMENT OF SIKH YOUTH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in concern about a troubling issue. Young Sikh boys are suffering from physical abuse, harassment and verbal taunting in some American schools. This is due to a lack of knowledge of the Sikh faith.

Sikhism is the world's fifth largest religion and has existed in India for more than five centuries. Many Sikhs in India play important roles in both the State and Federal Governments, and Sikhs are an integral part of the Indian American community in this country.

As part of their faith, Sikh men leave their hair uncut and wear turbans. Students see images of the Taliban and mistake Sikh youth for extremists. As a result, many Sikh boys have been harassed. As the Republican cochair of the India Caucus, I ask school administrators to work with members of the Sikh community to educate all young people about the importance of respecting other people's faith. No child should ever fear for their physical safety inside an American school.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops.

CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY FILINGS IN AMERICA

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, since 1980 consumer bankruptcy filings in America have absolutely quadrupled. Think about that. They have quadrupled, and why is that? Because bankruptcy used to be a term that made people shudder in their boots. Nobody wanted that black mark on their record. No one wanted that stigma. But today too many individuals think that filing for bankruptcy will erase their debt with little or no consequence, and it is high time for Americans to take financial responsibility for the debts that they have acquired.

The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2003 holds people accountable for their personal spending habits. If a person has debts and dissolves under Chapter 7, but have sufficient funds to pay off their debt, then clearly they should be required to pay it off, not to have their debt whisked painlessly away by just filing bankruptcy.

In my opinion, the Federal Government should not be in the business of bailing people out of their debt. We should instead be encouraging people to spend within their means and make logical and responsible financial choices, and this bill does just that.

This bill is about being held accountable, and it comes at just the right time. This is common-sense legislation. Bankruptcy abuse needs to stop, and this legislation is a step in the right direction.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO CLOSE RANKS

(Mr. HUNTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, our troops are well-equipped, well-trained and well-led. They are well-led all the way from their noncommissioned officers and officers at the small unit and company and battalion and brigade and division level all the way up to their leader at the top, the Commander in Chief of America's Armed Forces, President George Bush.

They have everything they need for victory except for one ingredient, Mr. Speaker. They need a Congress which quits berating their President, who is their leader, and their mission and closes ranks behind that mission and our President for victory.

RECREATIONAL MARINE EMPLOYMENT ACT

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Recreational

Marine Employment Act, which I recently introduced with broad bipartisan support. Through enactment of this legislation, the recreational marine industry will be able to create thousands of new jobs by ensuring that marinas, boat builders and recreational boaters will not have to pay the unnecessary and exorbitant insurance premiums under the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act.

Congress never intended that recreational marine jobs be covered under the Longshore Act, which applies to commercial ships, not recreational boats, since individuals who work in the recreational marine industry are already covered under State worker's compensation laws. This legislation will simply clarify that the recreational marine industry is exempt from the Longshore Act.

A recent survey indicated that employers in the recreational marine industry would save an average of \$99,000 a year if this legislation passes, and 95 percent of those employers would use the savings to create additional jobs.

This bill would provide the common-sense clarification needed under the Longshore Act. I urge my colleagues to call my office today and sign on as a cosponsor of H.R. 1329.

WAR ON IRAQ AND YOUNG CONSTITUENTS

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, through all the debate over attacking Iraq, it is important to remember how the threat of the United States attack on Iraq affects our youngest constituents.

Here is a letter that I just received from one such concerned constituent in my district, 7-year-old Nathaniel Smith from Capitola, California.

Dear Congressman Farr, My name is Nathaniel and I am 7 years old. I just want to say that I do not think the war is a very good idea. War is not a good way to solve problems, and it is a bad thing to happen in the world. It might destroy other people's property like houses and schools. People that are not in the war can die because soldiers might miss.

War is dangerous for nature. The money for war can go to schools. My school, Capitola Elementary, might close because my school does not have enough money. Please do not have a war.

Sincerely, Nathaniel Smith.

This youthful expression of concern eloquently captures the sentiment of so many Americans, young and old.

I would like to add my voice to that of Nathaniel Smith in urging the Commander in Chief who ordered this war to cancel it.

CONSTITUTION AND WAR IN IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)